

Message Text

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62
ACTION IO-11

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PASS TO NASA -- ARNOLD FRUTKIN
REFERENCE: A-494
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TSPA UN
SUBJECT: UN SPACE APPLICATIONS FELLOWSHIPS

1. THE MISSION INFORMED THE UN SECRETARIAT PER REFERENCED AIRGRAM AND ELICITED THE FOLLOWING RESPONSE: THE POOR RESPONSE TO THE US FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM HAS BEEN A DIRECT RESULT OF US UNWILLINGNESS TO PAY PARTICIPANTS PER DIEM. FELLOWSHIPS SPONSORED BY UK, ITALY, BRAZIL AND INDIA ARE COST INCLUSIVE EXCEPT FOR TRAVEL. THESE COUNTRIES CONTINUALLY HAVE MORE CANDIDATES THAN OPENINGS, E.G., THE UK HAS 10 OPENINGS FOR 35 APPLICANTS. JAPAN IS THE ONLY COUNTRY THAT FINANCES ENTIRE COST; ITS FELLOWSHIPS ARE, NATURALLY, OVERSUBSCRIBED.

2. THE SECRETARIAT SAYS IT HAS RECOMMENDED TO US AUTHORITIES ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT, IF NECESSARY, WE SHOULD CUT BACK ON THE NUMBER OF FELLOWSHIPS OFFERED BUT PAY PER DIEM COSTS. THIS WOULD TERMINATE THE VACANCY PROBLEM WITHOUT INCREASING TOTAL CASH OUTLAY.

3. THE SECRETARIAT REGRETS THE EXISTING SITUATION AND BELIEVES THAT DROPPING THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM WOULD BE SAD DEPARTURE FROM THE LONG US LEADERSHIP ROLE IN ENCOURAGING RESPONSIBLE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF SPACE TECHNOLOGY. COMMENT:
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WE ASK NASA AND THE DEPARTMENT TO CONSIDER THIS MATTER FURTHER.

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Message Attributes

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